

Historic, archived document

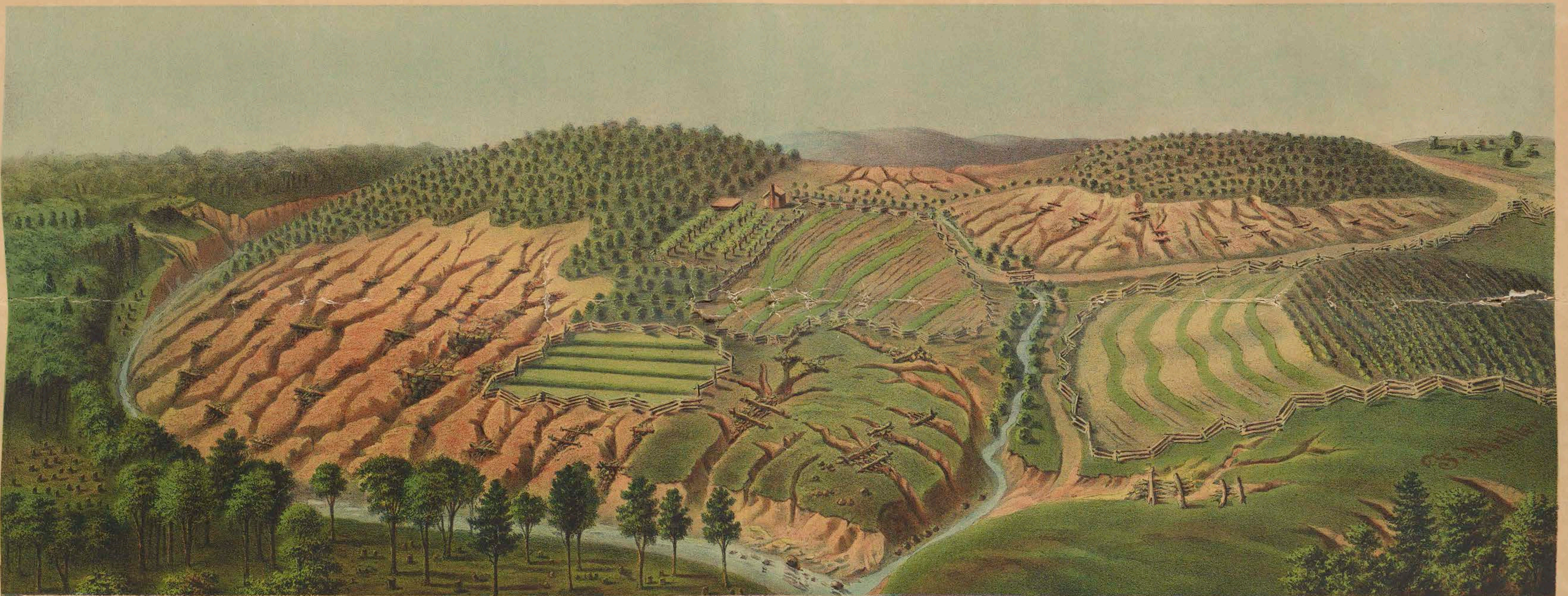
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THE LESSONS OF EROSION DUE TO FOREST DESTRUCTION.



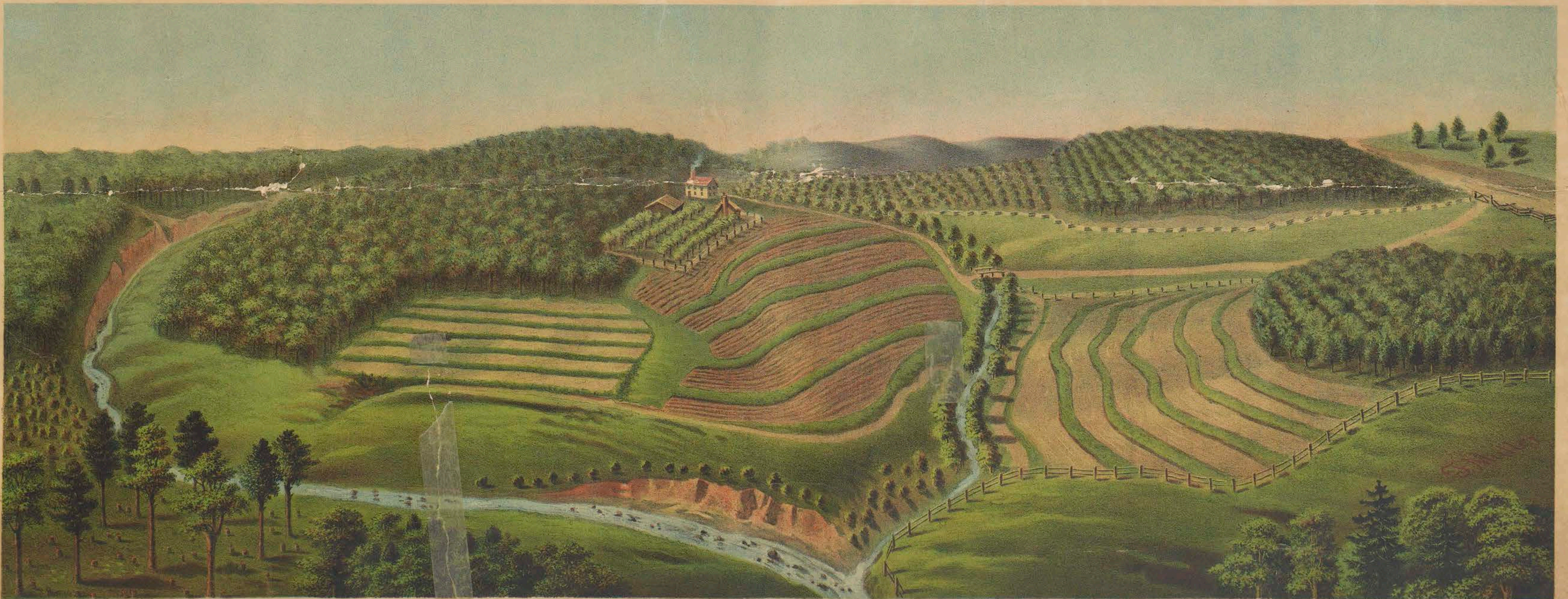
I. HOW THE FARM IS LOST.

By the denuding of hilltops; the excessive thinning of wooded hillsides; the burning of litter, underbrush, and young growth; the compacting of the soil by the tramping of animals induces rapid surface drainage. The surface water rushing unimpeded over bare slopes and the compacted ground washes away the soil, cuts gullies in the fields on hillsides, spreading silt, sand, and gravel over the fields and meadows below.



II. HOW THE FARM IS REGAINED.

Put hilltops and steep slopes under forest; check rush of water by filling gullies with brush and stone work, by terracing, contour plowing, and ditching, changing surface drainage into underground drainage; renew organic matter in the soil by green manuring and mulching and thorough cultivation.



III. HOW THE FARM IS RETAINED.

Preserve the forest cover on hilltops and on steep or rocky places, cutting wood systematically and judiciously so that it will reproduce, and replant where natural reproduction fails. A fringe of wood should line the river banks, and long slopes should be broken by small groves or timber belts. Use every foot of ground for the purpose to which it is best adapted. Divide the farm into field, pasture, woodland, devoting to pasture gentle slopes, where soil is too thin for field crops; supply roads with a view to convenience and grade; fence stock into pasture, not out of the fields; repair at once any damage caused by water.